The assistants of the Chief Engineer.

234. Mr. T. A Ramachandra Ayyar.— Will the Government be pleased (a) to place on the table the list of the Chief Engineer's assistants in the executive and ministerial sections with the respective salaries drawn by them;

(b) whether he could not manage the department with a much less number of assistants;

(c) whether there was a Personal Assistant to the Chief Engineer before the present Chief Engineer took charge of the appointment, and if so, the names of those Personal Assistants with their respective chiefs;

(d) if the answer to (c) is in the negative, what was the special necessity for the creation of that post now;

(e) whether the duties of the Head Draftsman, Draftsman, Supervisor (Technical Officer) and Personal Assistant and Office Surveyor could not devolve upon one and the same person;

(f) whether all the respective officers enumerated in (e) have tight work at present;

(g) whether there was any necessity for a costly Office Surveyor, while special Surveyors are appointed for special works, and other special works are being done by other subordinates in service;

(h) whether such costly establishment is not given to a District Board Engineer or a District Engineer in British India who is responsible for the management of several times the area of our State?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) The Member is referred to *the Civil List*.

(b) The matter is engaging the attention of the Special Finance Committee.

(c) Chief Engineers in the State used to be given Personal Assistants before the present Chief Engineer took charge.

Personal Assistant.	Chief Engineer.
Mr. G. E. Browning	Mr. H. W. Hudson
Mr. N. P. Hara Ayyar and Mr. H. C. Gill	Mr. G. E. Browning
Mr. George Attokkaran	Rai Bahadur K. Krishnan Nayar

(d) No answer required.

(e) No.

(f) Yes.

(g) Yes.

(h) Our establishment is not more costly than in British India.

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Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—On a perusal of *the Civil List*, page 67, the Head Accountant's maximum pay is put as 70—90 (P. W. D.), and he has not passed any P. W. D. Test, and yet he is paid an allowance of Rs. 10 extra.

President.—He has not passed any P. W. D. Test, and still you say that he is given an extra allowance of Rs. 10. He is only an accountant.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Are there not competent hands in the service who will work for the maximum pay of that post?

President.—Why is this personal allowance given to him?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—When he was transferred to the Chief Engineer's Office, he lost his chance of promotion in the Comptroller's Office where he was working. Therefore, he was given this allowance to compensate him for the loss of the pay which he would have got, if he had remained in the Comptroller's Office.

President.—Then the question will arise why his chances were not given in the Comptroller's Office. There will be no expenditure in the Comptroller's Office in keeping him there. If we could send another to the Chief Engineer's Office who would be given only that maximum pay, then we could very well dispense with this allowance, and thus save the amount given as allowance.

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—They wanted a competent hand for the Head Accountant's place from the Comptroller's Office to conduct the audit. We could send this man only from the Comptroller's Office. There the pay was only 90. So he was given there Rs. 10 more as allowance to compensate for the loss.

President.—The Chief Engineer's Office wanted an accountant from the Comptroller's Office, and this man was fixed upon, and he has to be given Rs. 100, the pay he would get in the Comptroller's Office. The pay of the Head Accountant in the Chief Engineer's Office is only Rs. 70—90, and in order to make up for the loss, Rs. 10 was given to him as personal allowance when he was sent to the Chief Engineer's Office.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Sir, I simply wanted to point out this; that is all. Then, with regard to the answer given to sub-division (h) of my question, our D. P. W. establishment is said to be not more costly than in British India. Was this answer given after collecting statistics from British India, or is it only a guess work?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—We got statistics from Mysore, Travancore and British India.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—May I know the pay of the District Engineer in British India?

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President.—There are District Engineers, District Board Engineers, Executive Engineers, Superintending Engineers, etc., in British India.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—As Heads of Departments?

President.—The Head of a Department will be a bigger person.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—The District Board Engineer or the District Engineer?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—The District Board Engineers are always recruited from the District Board. So far as I know, their grade of pay is Rs. 500—1,200. Executive Engineers are all recruited by the Government.

President.—Who is the Head of the Department in British India?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—The Head of the Department is the Executive Engineer. They have got Chief Engineers for roads, for buildings, for irrigation, and another for hydro-electric installations and a Deputy Engineer for the Mettur Project.

President.—What is the pay of the Executive Engineer?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—They get more than Rs. 3,000.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—What is the pay of the District Board Engineer?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—The District Board Engineer is quite different from the District Engineer. The District Board Engineer is under the District Board, and he has to do with roads and canals. District Engineers are under the D. P. W., and they have got to do with buildings, roads, irrigation works and hydro-electric schemes and correspondence between the Government and their office. My information is that there are two classes of officers, District Engineers and Assistant Engineers. Their maximum pay comes to Rs. 600, and there is another, what is called the Selection Grade. They are promoted as Executive Engineers. Their pay is Rs. 500.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—The pay of the District Board Engineer is Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500.

Sign boards for facility of travelling.

235. Dr. A. G. Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(1) whether their attention has been drawn to the great difficulty experienced by the travellers through land and water for want of sign boards;

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